



BUDGET COMMITTEE



Judd Gregg, Ranking Member
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**Republicans Urge Budget Conferees
to Protect Economy and Middle-Class Taxpayers
*Democrats' Tax-and-Spend Budget is Bad for the Family Budget***

Senate Budget Committee Ranking Member Judd Gregg today joined Senators Jon Kyl (R-AZ), Jim DeMint (R-SC), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), and David Vitter (R-LA) in offering motions to instruct Senate conferees of the FY 2009 Budget Resolution Conference.

“For the second year in a row, the Democratic majority has put forth a budget that dramatically raises taxes on hardworking American families and businesses,” said Senator Gregg. “That tax hike means that millions of families, seniors and small business-owners, many of whom earn less than \$50,000 per year, will owe thousands more in taxes to the federal government. In addition, millions of low-income workers will be added back to the tax rolls.

“This outrageous tax increase of at least \$1.2 trillion is only one component of this fiscally irresponsible budget. For a second year in a row, Democrats increase spending by more than \$200 billion, grow the debt by \$2 trillion, and turn a blind eye to the \$66 trillion entitlement crisis that is now on our doorstep.

“This time of economic uncertainty calls for fiscal restraint, not a massive expansion of government. Congress should lessen the tax burden on families struggling with rising food and fuel costs, and take steps to reduce the fiscal burden we are passing on to our children and grandchildren. Instead of simply rubber-stamping another Democratic tax-and-spend budget, the Budget Resolution conferees should take the necessary steps to protect the economy and the millions of middle-class taxpayers behind it.”

Motions to Instruct Conferees on the FY 2009 Budget Resolution
Offered by Republican Senators Gregg, Kyl, DeMint, Graham and Vitter

Motion to Instruct Conferees on Prohibiting Largest Tax Increase in History –
Offered by Senator Gregg (Not agreed to)

Conferees instructed that conference report should “reject the revenue levels in both the Senate-passed and the House-passed budget resolutions, both of which assume the largest tax increase in history, and include revenue levels consistent with extension of the tax rates currently in place.”

Motion to Instruct Conferees on Prohibiting Tax Increases to Offset AMT Patch and Extension of Other Expiring Tax Policies –
Offered by Senator Kyl (Agreed to)

Conferees instructed that conference report should “reject the House amendment that assumes \$110 billion in tax increases as a result of having to offset the extension of tax policies that expired at the end of 2007 and will expire at the end of 2008 (including the AMT patch, the research and experimentation tax credit, the state and local sales tax deduction, the combat pay earned income tax credit, education tax credits, and the alternative energy tax credits) and insist that the final conference report include in the recommended levels and amounts in Title I reductions in revenues commensurate with extending these tax policies without offsetting tax increases.”

Motion to Instruct Conferees on Including an Energy-Nuclear Reserve Fund –
Offered by Senator Graham (Agreed to)

Conferees instructed that conference report should “insist on the inclusion of the deficit neutral reserve fund to improve energy efficiency and production, as passed by the Senate, and that such section include an additional requirement that the legislation also encourages the removal of existing barriers to building new zero-emission nuclear power plants in the United States.”

Motion to Instruct Conferees on China-India Greenhouse Gas Emission Mandates –
Offered by Senator DeMint (Not agreed to)

Conferees instructed that conference report should “insist that if the final conference report includes section 304 of S. Con.Res.70, the deficit neutral reserve fund to invest in clean energy, preserve the environment and provide for certain settlements, as passed by the Senate, that such section shall include an additional requirement that any legislation providing for new mandates on greenhouse gas emissions be contingent on enactment of similar mandates in China and India.”

Motion to Instruct Conferees on Outer-Continental Shelf Energy Exploration –
Offered by Senator Vitter (Not agreed to)

Conferees instructed that conference report should “insist that the conference report include a reserve fund that requires the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to adjust budget aggregates and the allocation of the Energy Committee, if the Senate considers legislation that allows a Governor, with the concurrence of the State legislature to petition for increased energy exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf and that

allows for revenue sharing for such producing States on new areas of production and new leases made available, if the average price of regular gasoline in the United States reaches \$5 per gallon.”

Motion to Instruct Conferees on Limiting Discretionary Spending to Less Than \$1 Trillion – Offered by Senator Gregg (Not agreed to)

Conferees instructed that conference report should “insist that the final conference report includes a level for 2009 budget authority not to exceed \$1 trillion for non-emergency discretionary appropriations.”

Motion to Instruct Conferees on Debt Disclosure in the Budget Resolution – Offered by Senator Gregg (Agreed to)

Conferees instructed that conference report should “insist on the inclusion in the final conference report the point of order against the consideration of a budget resolution in the Senate that does not contain a section regarding gross federal debt disclosure as contained in section 223 of the concurrent resolution as passed by the Senate, and further, that the conferees be instructed to include a debt disclosure section in the final conference report that itemizes the overall debt increase and the per person debt increase assumed by the final conference report.”

Motion to Instruct Conferees on Budget Enforcement – Offered by Senator Gregg (Agreed to)

Conferees instructed that conference report should “insist that the final conference report include the individual points of order that empowers the Senate to prevent future budget resolutions from raiding Social Security; enforces transparency during Senate consideration of the congressional budget by requiring disclosure of the gross federal debt held by the nation; strengthens the integrity of the reconciliation process; and provides an additional tool to thwart any net increase in deficits in the long term (four ten year periods after 2018), as contained in sections 226, 223/224, 202 and 201, respectively, of the concurrent resolution as passed by the Senate.”